GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2285
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
National Policy for Disabled Persons
Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Policy for persons with Disabilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of implementation of the said policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) & (b) The Government have already released the National Policy for persons with disabilities in the year 2006. The National Policy recognizes that the persons with disabilities are valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation in society. The policy focuses on prevention of disabilities, rehabilitation, education, employment, social protection, sports and recreation etc. for persons with disabilities.

(c) The PwD Act, 1995 provides various entitlements for persons with disabilities and mandates the appropriate Governments for taking measures for their empowerment and inclusion in the society. The Government also implements various schemes and programs for the empowerment of persons with disabilities in line with the National Policy. Some of the important schemes/programs are:

(i) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP): Under ADIP Scheme the funds are released to various Implementing Agencies to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.

(ii) Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (SIPDA): Under this scheme, assistance is provided to State Governments and to autonomous organizations/Institutions under Central or State Governments, for various activities relating to implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, particularly for creation of barrier free environment for persons with disabilities.

(iii) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities implements a Scheme, namely, Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for their projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

(iv) Scholarship schemes for students with disabilities such as Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education, National Fellowship, National Overseas Scholarship

(v) Scheme on Research on Disability related Technology, Products and Issues
was launched in January, 2015 to support research to promote the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

(vi) Accessible India Campaign has been launched on 03.12.2015 with a view to create awareness and provide barrier free environment for persons with disabilities.

(vii) The Government has launched the national action plan for skill development to impart skill training to persons with disabilities to enhance their scope of employment.

Further, with a view to provide more rights and entitlements to persons with disabilities, the Ministry has introduced the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 (to replace existing PwD Act, 1995) in Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2014. The Bill proposes to mandate the appropriate Governments to frame scheme/programs for benefit of persons with disabilities in the area of education, social security, skill development, sports and recreational activities so as to provide them an equitable environment for their empowerment and mainstreaming them in the society in line with the National Policy.

****